

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS**

**TREATMENT GUIDELINES
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1993**

**GUIDELINE NUMBER 22 - SURGERY FOR CERVICAL RADICULOPATHY
FOR ENTRAPMENT OF A SINGLE NERVE ROOT**

I. Conservative Care :

- A. 6-8 weeks minimum - for example:
1. physical therapy
 2. non-steroid anti-inflammatory agents
 3. cervical traction

AND

II. Clinical Findings:

- A. Subjective
1. Sensory symptoms in a dermatomal distribution (could include: radiating pain, paraesthesia, tingling, burning, or numbness)

AND

- B. Objective
1. Dermatomal sensory deficit; **or**
 2. Motor deficit; **or**
 3. Reflex changes; **or**
 4. Positive EMG

AND

- C. Imaging
1. Abnormal test results that correlate with the level of nerve root involvement consistent with subjective and objective findings. Tests could include CT scan, MRI, or Myelogram.

III. Special Instructions :

- A. *Cases to be referred to a physician advisor:*
1. *Repeat surgery at same level*
 2. *Request for surgery at the C#-4 level*
 3. *Requests for surgery with signs and symptoms indicating myelopathy*
- B. *When requesting authorization for decompression of multiple level nerve roots, each level is subject to the criteria.*